A Christmas Dialog

Telephoning To Santa Claus

By

JOHN D. MACDONALD

Time of rendition 10 minutes

Tullar-Meredith Co.

265 West 36th Street New York, N. Y.

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By

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DIALOGUE FOR TWO LITTLE GIRLS, TEN OR TWELVE YEARS OLD

SCENE—*Sitting room*

(For telephone use box ten by fifteen inches or larger. Fix it to an upright that can be moved out on the platform. Have one end fixed like trap door. Tie skates to muff about one foot apart. Shove muff in box first and then skates. Put electric or bicycle bell on box. Run heavy cord to the window for telephone wire. Have mouthpiece on box, and have box high enough so that the speaker must stand on a chair. Have a receiver or an imitation quite a way from the box—perhaps six or seven feet. Do not hurry.)

Esther (seated in small rocker). This is Christmas Eve, Mabel, and I suppose that Santa Claus has his pack all made up, and is off with his reindeer to visit all the good little boys and girls all over the world. I do hope he will be sure and come to *(name your own town or city)*, because I want something very much this year. Just think, last Christmas I laid awake most all night to see him, but I didn't see him at all. I don't know when he got in the house or how he got out, but he just fooled me, that's what he did.

Mabel. No doubt he's started on his journey by this time. I think he must ride like the wind to get all over the world in a night. Why it took all night and a day for us to go to Aunt Ella's last Thanksgiving time, and that's not so far as around the world. But I would like to see Santa this year so I could tell him what I want. They say if Santa Claus knows what you want he will almost always bring it to you.

Esther. Yes, I know he will, because Maggie Brown wrote to him last year and told him that she wanted a pony and a cart and he brought it to her.

Mabel. And Tommy Carter wrote to him, too, and told him that he wanted a bicycle and he got it, too. I guess Santa is a nice old man.

Esther. And Mrs. Santa must be a nice old lady, too, or she wouldn't dress all those nice dolls for Mr. Santa Claus.

Mabel. It's too bad that we did not write to him last week, and then he surely would have gotten our letter.

Esther (rising up and putting doll in the chair). Mabel, why not telephone to him? Papa has a long distance telephone, and I talked away down to New York through it once, and I guess if cousin Mary could hear me in New York, Santa Claus ought to hear me in Santa Claus Land.

Mabel. Wasn't Papa with you when you talked that time, Esther?

Esther. Yes, but I remember just how I did it. You just ring the bell, and talk in the box, and listen for the answer. Let's try it, anyway.

Mabel. All right, we will, but he may not be at home. He must start early to travel so far.

Esther. I will ask Mrs. Santa Claus anyway. Now let's do it quick, before any one comes in.

Mabel (getting a chair for Esther to stand on). Here Esther. you must stand upon this chair. Now be careful not to fall off.

Esther (gets upon chair). Now you take the receiver and stand over there *(points)* and listen to what she says *(Esther rings.)*

Mabel. Some one is there, Esther. Ask them to give you Santa Claus Land.

Esther. Hello, hello! Give me Santa Claus Land, please.

Mabel. She says that this is Santa Claus land.

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Esther. Hello! Is this Mrs. Santa Claus?

Mabel. She says "yes." Ask her if Mr. Santa Claus is at home.

Esther. Mrs. Santa Claus, Mrs. Santa Claus, is Mr. Santa Claus at home?

Mabel. She says "no," he isn't. He has gone on a journey to visit all the good boys and girls.

Esther. Hello, hello, Mrs. Santa Claus. Does Mr. Santa Claus only make one trip on Christmas Eve?

Mabel. She says "yes," that is all he makes. Ask her to send some one after him to catch him, because we want something very special.

Esther. Mrs. Santa Claus. *(Both wait a moment.)*

Mabel. She can't be at the phone, Esther, ring her up again.

Esther (rings again). Hello, Mrs. Santa Claus, will you please send some one after Mr. Santa Claus, to tell him that we want something special?

Mabel (waits a moment). She's not there yet, Esther. Ring her up again. *(Esther rings quite hard.)* Now she is there, and she wants to know why we bother her so on Christmas Eve.

Esther. Mrs. Santa, please send some one after Mr. Santa, and tell him that we are two good little girls, and we want a muff and a pair of skates, and some candy canes as long as your arm. Now don't forget, Mrs. Santa—a muff, and skates, and candy canes as long as myself.

Mabel. She says that Santa is too far away, and nobody could catch him now. And she says that we must not bother her any more as she is busy making her Christmas pies.

Esther (to Mabel). But I want my candy cane *(rings several times).*

Mabel (frightened). Oh, Esther, Mrs. Santy will be awfully angry with us. Let's go away.

Esther (getting impatient). Does she answer the ring?

Mabel. No. *(Esther rings harder than before.)* Now she is there and she wants to know if it is the same two little girls.

Esther (into the phone). Yes, it's Mabel and me, and we want Santa Claus to bring us some skates, and a muff and candy canes as long as a fishing-pole.

Mabel. She says that we must be good or Santa won't come to *(name your town)* tonight at all. We bother her a lot, she says.

Esther (into the phone). Mrs. Santa—Mrs. Santa—*(no answer.)*

Mabel. She has gone away again, Esther. Let's not bother her any more or she may send some one after Santa to tell on us.

Esther. I want to know if Santa is coming to *(your town)* tonight, anyway *(rings long and several times).*

Mabel (frightened). I guess she is angry with us, Esther. Please do let's stop now. Let's not ring any more, because I don't care for the skates, anyway.

Esther (to Mabel). Isn't she there yet?

Mabel. No—I guess not. *(Esther rings and rings.)* Oh, Oh, Esther do stop!

Esther. Now—is—she—there?

Mabel. Yes, and she wants papa to take those naughty girls away from the "phone," or Santa won't come to *(your town)* tonight. Please do stop ringing, Esther. *(Listens.)* Oh, Esther, I think I hear papa coming, and he will be angry, too.

Esther. No, papa won't be angry, he would like to have us get our muff and skates. *(Ring, rings and rings.)*

Mabel (during the ringing). Oh, Esther, oh, Esther! She says to stop that ringing!!

Esther (stamping her foot, keeps on ringing). I'm mad with her, Mabel *(then into the phone).* Mrs. Santa—Mrs. Santa—do you hear, Mrs. Santa? Do—you—hear—Mrs. Santa? We want our muff, and our skates, and the candy canes as big as a house. Do—you—hear. Mrs. Santa? Mrs. Santa! I want my muff

and skates. *(Rings while talking.)* I am mad with you, Mrs. Santa. I want my muff. *(Here pull the trap and the skates drop out, pulling the muff also. Esther jumps down from the chair, Mabel drops the receiver. They seize the skates and muff and say, as they hold them up)*: We've got them. We've got them, the skates and muff, the skates and muff!

(Exit)

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Christmas Plays

(✚)**OLA: OR A CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR MOTHER.** In this little 15-minute play the Christmas present the three children of the "Good" family find for mother is none other than "Ola," a street waif who comes in to get warm while mother is out shopping. Alta, the only girl in the family, has been wishing she had a sister to share the trials which two (2) wideawake brothers bring to her, so she has a double motive in wanting to hide Ola away when mother comes and then bring her out and present her as a Christmas present to mother. Only five characters, 2 boys, 2 girls, and 1 woman, required. No special costumes needed, and the one home scene is simple to provide. Five copies required. Price 30 cts., postpaid.

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